Applying Fire Support to an Airfield Seizure

82D AIRBORNE DIVISION

CW2 Robert Buck

MISSION

WITHIN 18 HOURS OF NOTIFICATION,THE 82D AIRBORNE DIVISION STRATEGICALLY DEPLOYS, CONDUCTS FORCIBLE ENTRY PARACHUTE ASSAULT AND SECURES KEY OBJECTIVES FOR FOLLOW-ON MILITARY OPERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF U.S. NATIONAL INTERESTS.

MISSION ESSENTIAL TASK LIST

- **ALERT, MARSHAL, AND DEPLOY WITHIN 18 HOURS NOTICE**
- **CONDUCT AIRBORNE ASSAULT TO SEIZE AN AIRFIELD**
- **SECURE LODGEMENT**
- **CONDUCT OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS**
- **SUSTAIN THE DIVISION**
- **C2 THE DIVISION**
- **PROTECT THE FORCE**

AIRFIELD SEIZURE TASKS

- **PARACHUTE ASSAULT**
- **SEIZE AN AIRSTRIP**
- **SEIZE CRITICAL FACILITIES WITHIN P+30 MINUTES**
- **CLEAR AND PREPARE RUNWAY OR FLS FOR FOLLOW ON AIRCRAFT WITHIN 2 - 10 HOURS**

ASSUMPTIONS

- **FRIENDLY**
  - **FORCED ENTRY OPERATIONS REQUIRED**
  - **SUFFICIENT AIRCRAFT AVAILABLE (C130, C17, C141)**
  - **DIVISION/JTF WILL SET CONDITIONS**
  - **CAS IS AVAILABLE**

COMMON TERMS:

P-HOUR:

DEFINED AS THE TIME THE FIRST JUMPER EXITS THE FIRST AIRCRAFT (FM 90-26/AIRFIELD SEIZURE T&EO)

SEIZE:

CLEAR A DESIGNATED AREA OF ENEMY AND OBTAIN CONTROL OVER IT

FRIENDLY FORCE MUST PHYSICALLY OCCUPY IT

ORGANIZED RESISTANCE ELIMINATED BY THE DESTRUCTION, CAPTURE, OR WITHDRAWAL OF ENEMY FORCES

COMMON TERMS:

CLEAR:

REMOVE ALL ENEMY FORCES FROM A SPECIFIC LOCATION, AREA, OR ZONE (MANEUVER DEF)

THE TOTAL ELIMINATION OR NEUTRALIZATION OF AN OBSTACLE THAT IS USUALLY PERFORMED BY FOLLOW ON ENGINEERS AND IS NOT DONE UNDER FIRE

SECURE:

UNIT HAS ESTABLISHED THE LIMIT OF THE AIRHEAD, IS IN POSSESSION OF THE FLS/AFLD, AND IS DEPLOYED IN A MANNER WHICH PREVENTS ITS DESTRUCTION OR LOSS TO ENEMY ACTION

ADDITIONALLY, THE FLS/AFLD IS FREE FROM DIRECT FIRES AND OBSERVED INDIRECT FIRES

COMMON TERMS:

AIRHEAD:

A DESIGNATED AREA IN A HOSTILE OR THREATENED TERRITORY WHICH WHEN SEIZED AND DEFENDED, ENSURES THE CONTINUOUS AIR LANDING OF TROOPS AND MATERIAL

- **NORMALLY AREA SEIZED IN ASSAULT PHASE OF AN AIRBORNE OR AIR ASSAULT OPERATION**
- **CONTAINS ENOUGH DZs AND LZs TO ENSURE MASS, INTERIOR LOCs, AND DEFENSE IN DEPTH**
- **AIRHEAD LINE IS CLEARED OF ENEMY FORCE AND THE ENEMY HAS NO CAPABILITY TO PUT DIRECT OR OBSERVED INDIRECT FIRES ON THE AIRFIELD**

AIRHEAD LINE:

A GRAPHIC CONTROL MEASURE (PHASE LINE) THAT DEFINES THE LIMIT OF THE OBJECTIVE AREA.

Pre-Assault Fires

PRE-ASSAULT FIRES

TARGETING → **HPTs**

Use of EAC, Strategic/National A

Division Targeting Objective (PA

- **Destroy ADA**
- **Neutralize Ground Weapons Systems**
- ***Isolate Airfield***

– BDE Level Targets (GTP)

- **Serviced by DS Assets**

  AC130, KWs, CAS, NSFS

Division Targeting Objectives

- **Destroy ADA (3 x SA-14, DShK HVY MG) IOT allow uninterrupted airflow of PAX aircraft enroute to OBJ WASHINGTON IOT set conditions for TF 3-82's forcible entry.**

  (2 x AC-130H)

- **Suppress 82mm Mortars and CLF maneuver forces IOT prevent indirect fires from disrupting TF 3-82's seizure of OBJ WASHINGTON and OBJ ADAMS.**

  (2 x A-10, AC-130H, 4 x OH-58D)

- **Deny (jam) CLF ADA, FS and MAN nets IOT disrupt the enemy's reaction to the pre-assault fires and subsequent airborne assault.**
- **(EC-130H)**

PRE-ASSAULT FIRES

LETHAL

AC-130

AC-130H

40mm, 105mm

AC-130U

25mm, 40mm,

105mm

APQ-180

PRE ASSAULT FIRES
NON-LETHAL

EC-130H
COMPASS CALL

RC-135
RIVET JOINT

EA-6B
PROWLE
R

EC-130E

COMMANDO SOLO

PRE ASSAULT FIRES
NON-LETHAL

EA-6B PROWLER

Service: Navy/USMC

Function: Jams early warning, target acquisition target tracking, and missile guidance radars

Characteristics: SEAD, 4-man crew, any mix of 5 EW pods, 4 HARMs

PRE ASSAULT FIRES

NON-LETHAL

Service: USAF

Function: SEAD

Suppression of SAMS

Characteristics: utilizes HARM missiles and ALQ-119 for self-protection

F-16C/J FIGHTING FALCON

PRE ASSAULT FIRES

NON-LETHAL

Service: USAF

Function: COMINT (C3CM) Jammer

Characteristics: 13-man crew, capable of barrage jamming; uses Rivet Fire electronics package

EC-130H COMPASS CALL

PRE ASSAULT FIRES

NON-LETHAL

Service: USAF

Function: Broadcaster

Characteristics: reception, analysis, and transmission of standard AM, FM, HF, TV and military communications bands

Secondary

EC-130E COMMANDO SOLO

PRE ASSAULT FIRES

NON-LETHAL

Service: USAF

Function: Surveillance

Characteristics: 13-man crew, capable collecting, analyzing, and exploiting enemy C4I, broadcast direct voice comms

RC-135 RIVET JOINT

JACC/CP

JOINT AIRBORNE COMMAND & CONTROL/ COMMUNICATIONS PLATFORM (“JACKPOT”)

PROVIDE AIRBORNE ENROUTE AND INITIAL FORCIBLE ENTRY COMMUNICATIONS.

COMMAND, CONTROL, COMMUNICATIONS, AND INTELLIGENCE PLATFORM FOR MANEUVER FORCES

INTEGRATE AND CONTROL PRE-ASSAULT FIRES

PROVIDE CONNECTIVITY BETWEEN RECON TEAMS, AIRBORNE COMMANDER, JOINT TASK FORCE HEADQUARTERS, AND JOINT ATTACK ASSETS

JACC/CP TYPICAL SEATING

TACSAT NETS

A - JTF CMD TACSAT

B - DIV CMD TACSAT

C - DIV O/I TACSAT/DATA

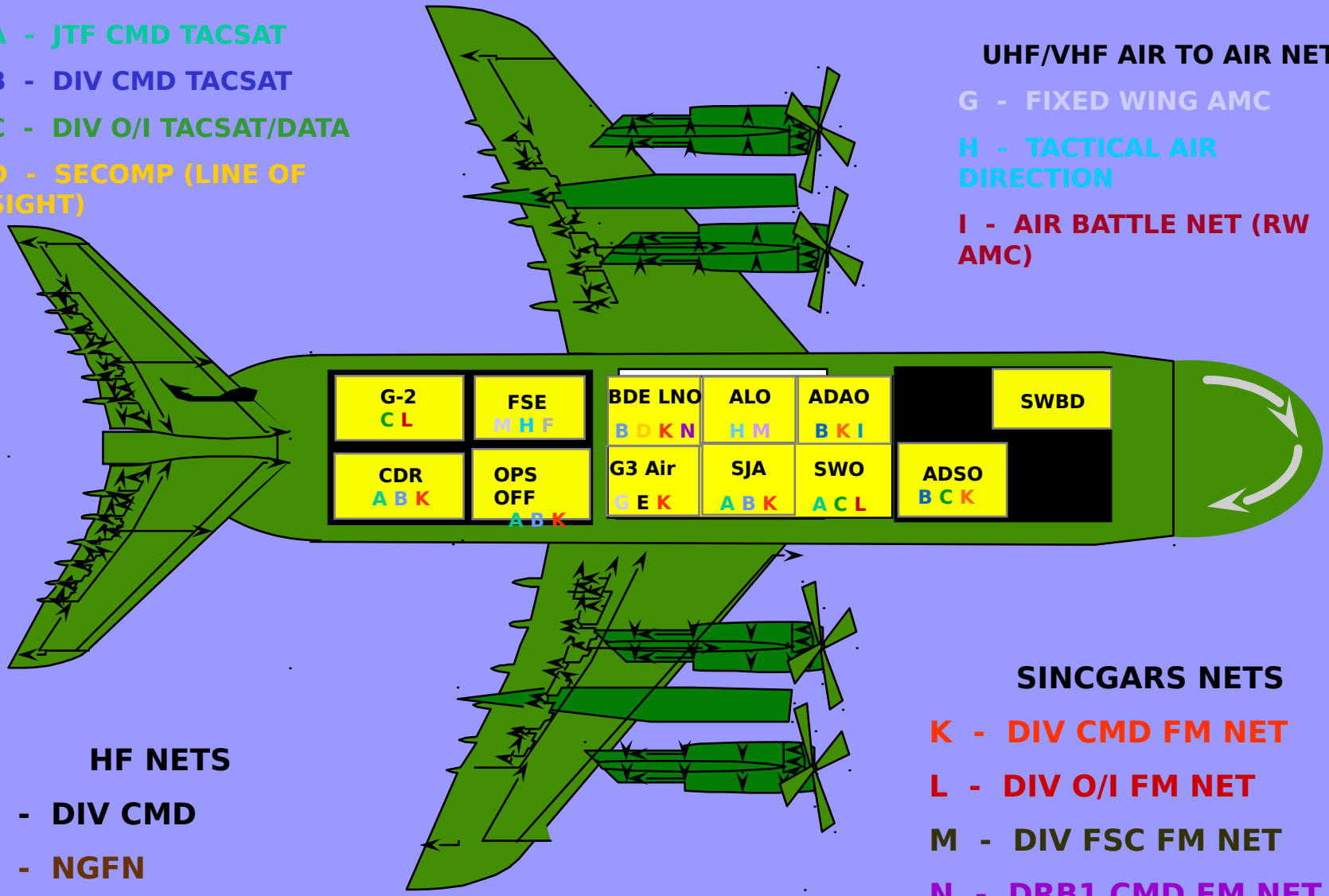
D - SECOMP (LINE OF SIGHT)

UHF/VHF AIR TO AIR NETS

G - FIXED WING AMC

H - TACTICAL AIR DIRECTION

I - AIR BATTLE NET (RW AMC)



HF NETS

E - DIV CMD

F - NGFN

SINCGARS NETS

K - DIV CMD FM NET

L - DIV O/I FM NET

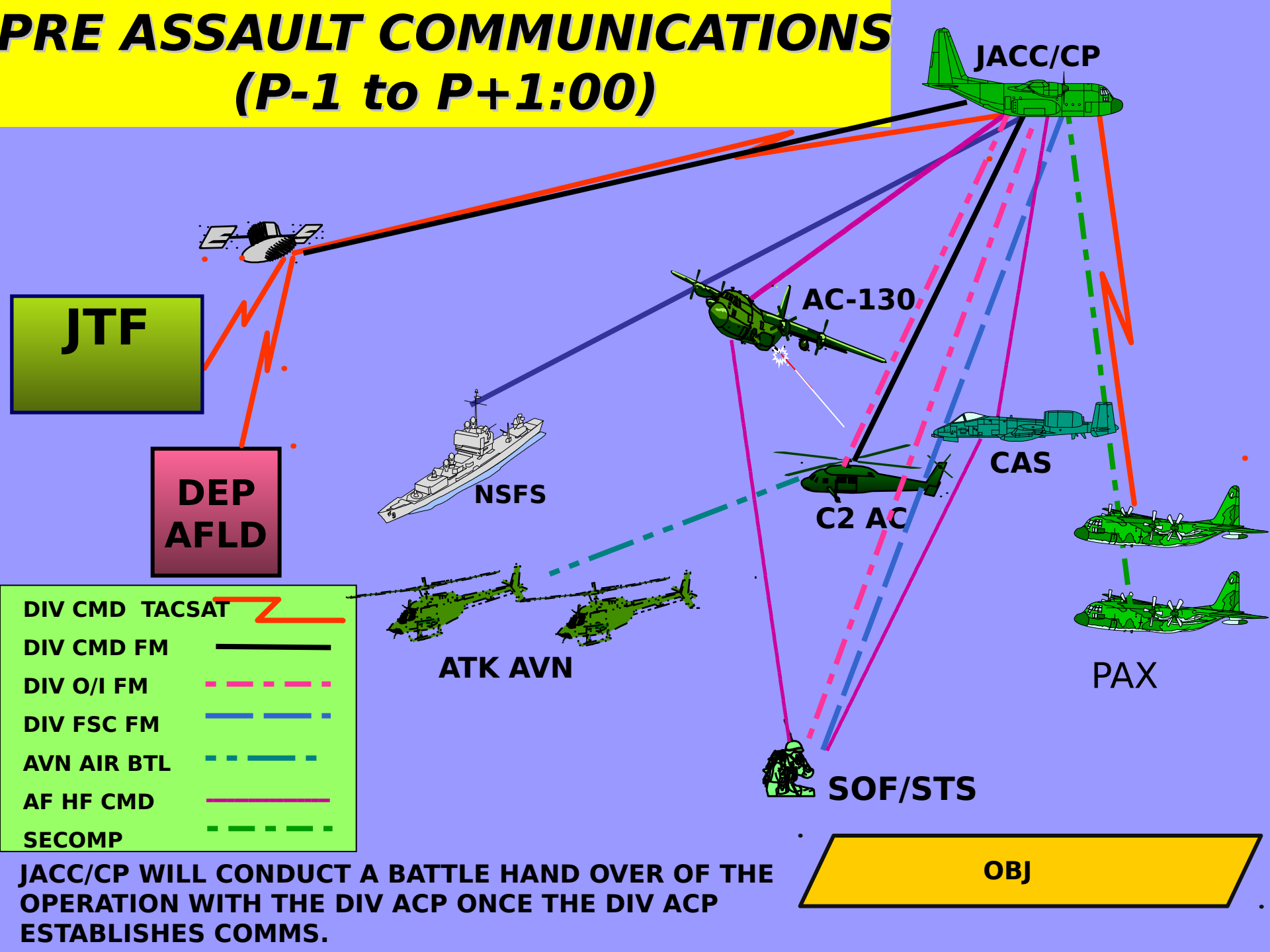
M - DIV FSC FM NET

N - DRB1 CMD FM NET

JACC/CP COMMUNICATIONS NETS

- 4ea UHF TACSAT, KY-57/KY-99
  - DIVISION COMMAND - TACSAT
  - DIVISION OPERATIONS / INTELLIGENCE - TACSAT
  - *SECURE ENROUTE COMMUNICATIONS PACKAGE - SECOMP*
  - BACKUP
- 2ea HF SSB KY-99 Secure Voice
  - DIVISION COMMAND - HF
  - NAVAL GUNFIRE - HF
- 2ea UHF/AM Air to Air
  - AIR MISSION COORDINATION
  - AIR TACTICAL AIR DEFENSE (Air Force)
  - AIR BATTLE NET (Army Aviation)
- 4ea SINCGARS (50W High Power)
  - DIVISION COMMAND - FM
  - DIVISION OPERATIONS / INTELLIGENCE - FM
  - DIVISION FIRE SUPPORT COORDINATION - FM
  - BACKUP
- On board GPS

PRE ASSAULT COMMUNICATIONS (P-1 to P+1:00)



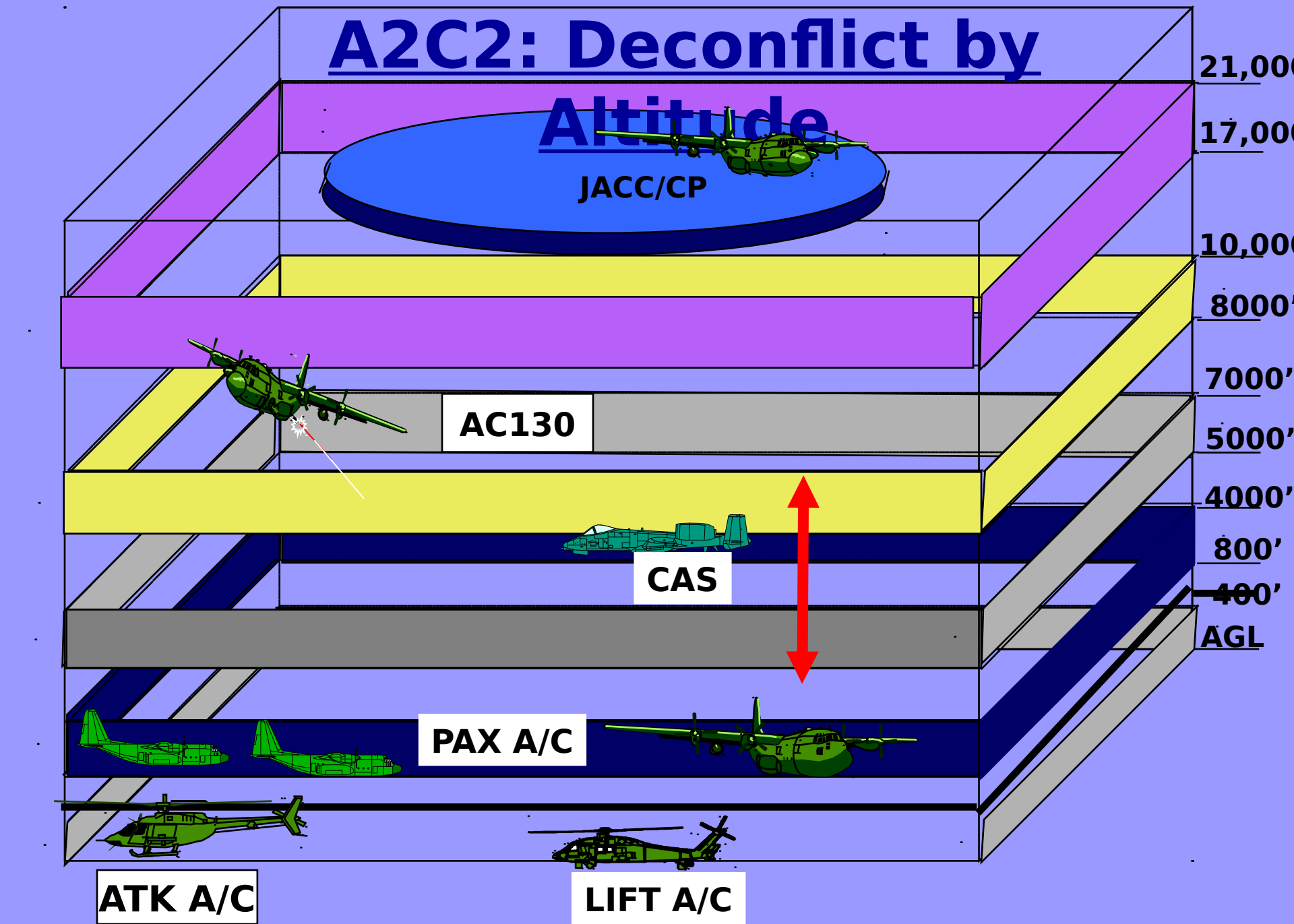
JACC/CP WILL CONDUCT A BATTLE HAND OVER OF THE OPERATION WITH THE DIV ACP ONCE THE DIV ACP ESTABLISHES COMMS.

CONTROL MEASURES

A2C2

- **AIRSPACE USERS:**
  - **AIR FORCE**
    (PARADROP A/C, CAS, AC130, AIRLAND
  - **ARMY AVIATION**
    (C2, AH-64s, OH-58Ds, UH-60s)
  - **ARTILLERY**
    (105mm, 155mm, 81mm, 60mm)

A2C2: Deconflict by Altitude



CONTROL MEASURES:

- **No Fire Areas**

(SOF, LRS, AFLD Tower)

- **Restricted Fire Areas**

(FLS, Urban Terrain)

- **All Indirect Fires must be observe**
- **All Indirect Fires MUST be cleared**

the DIV/RGT ACP or TOC when established

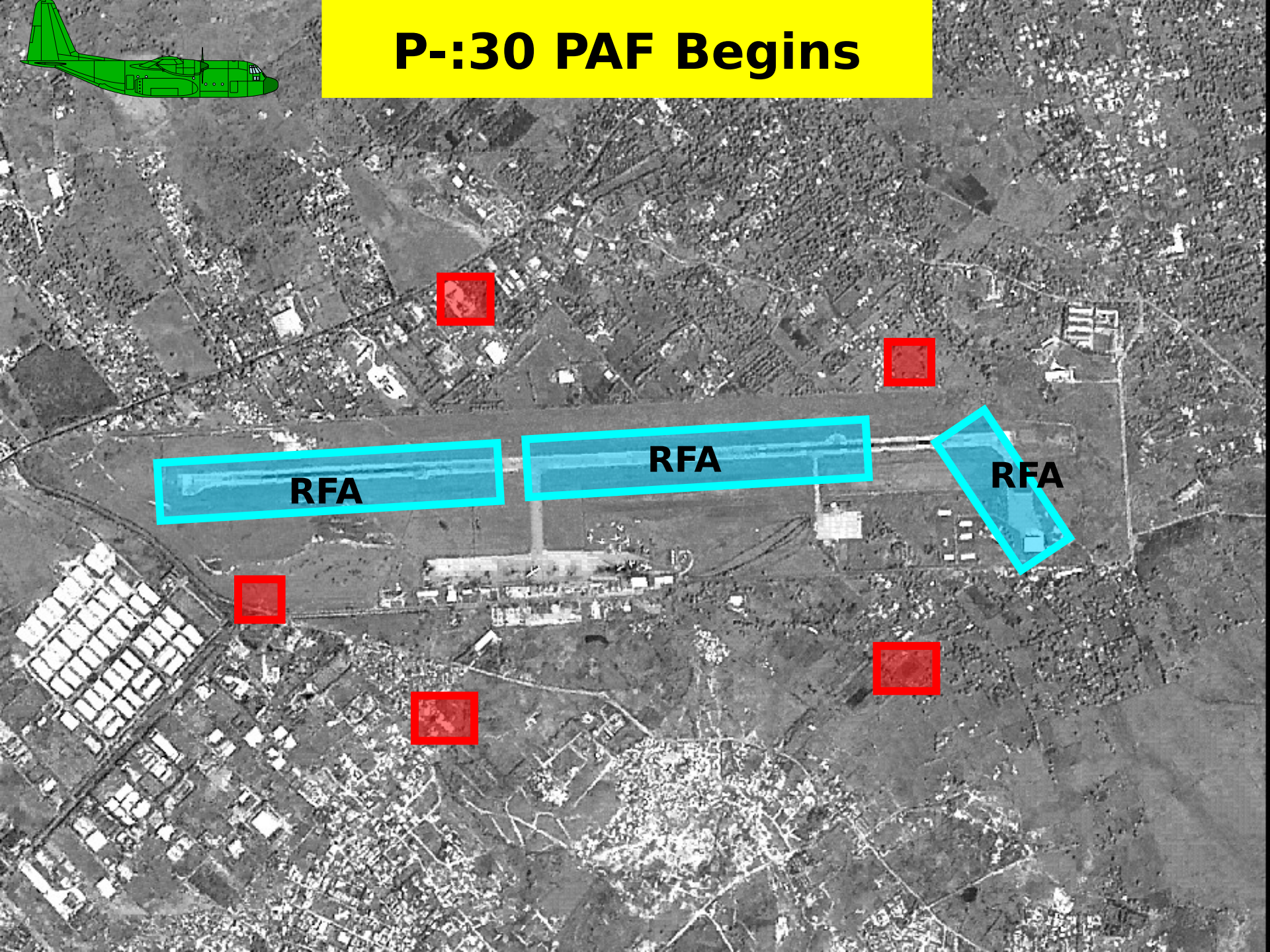
ISSUE: **FARP OPERATIONS VIC FIRE BA**

CONTROL MEASURES:

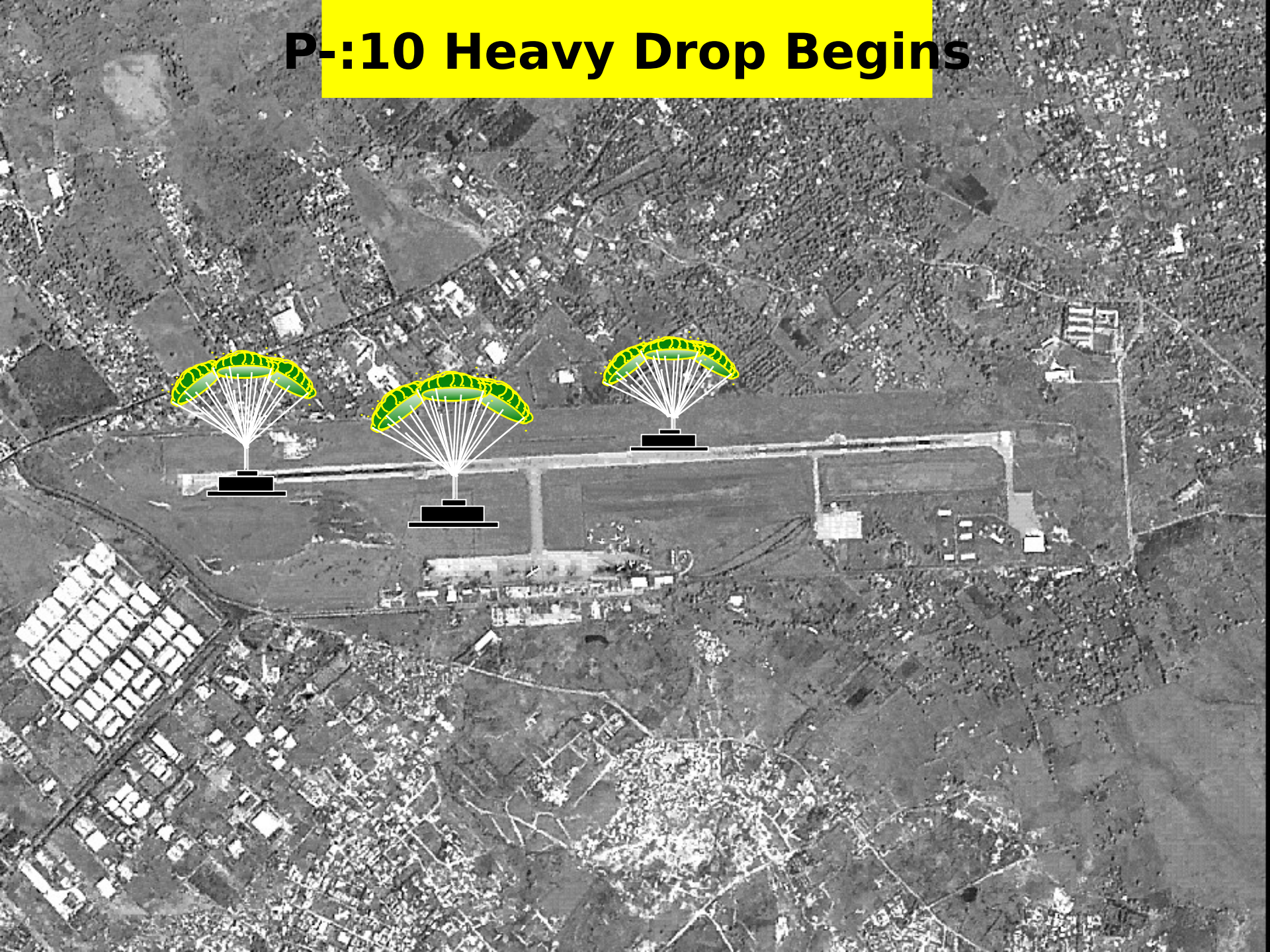
Fire Base and FARP <u>should not</u> be loca within 1000m of each other.

If w/in 1000m; approach and departur to FARP will be deconflicted with pr direction of FIRE. Artillery will chec as needed.
(Knowledge of FLS location/DOF)

P- 48 SOF/LRS/STS
AIRBORNE
CORPS
LRSC
AIRBORNE
DIV
LRSD
USAF
STS


P-:30 PAF Begins
RFA
RFA
RFA

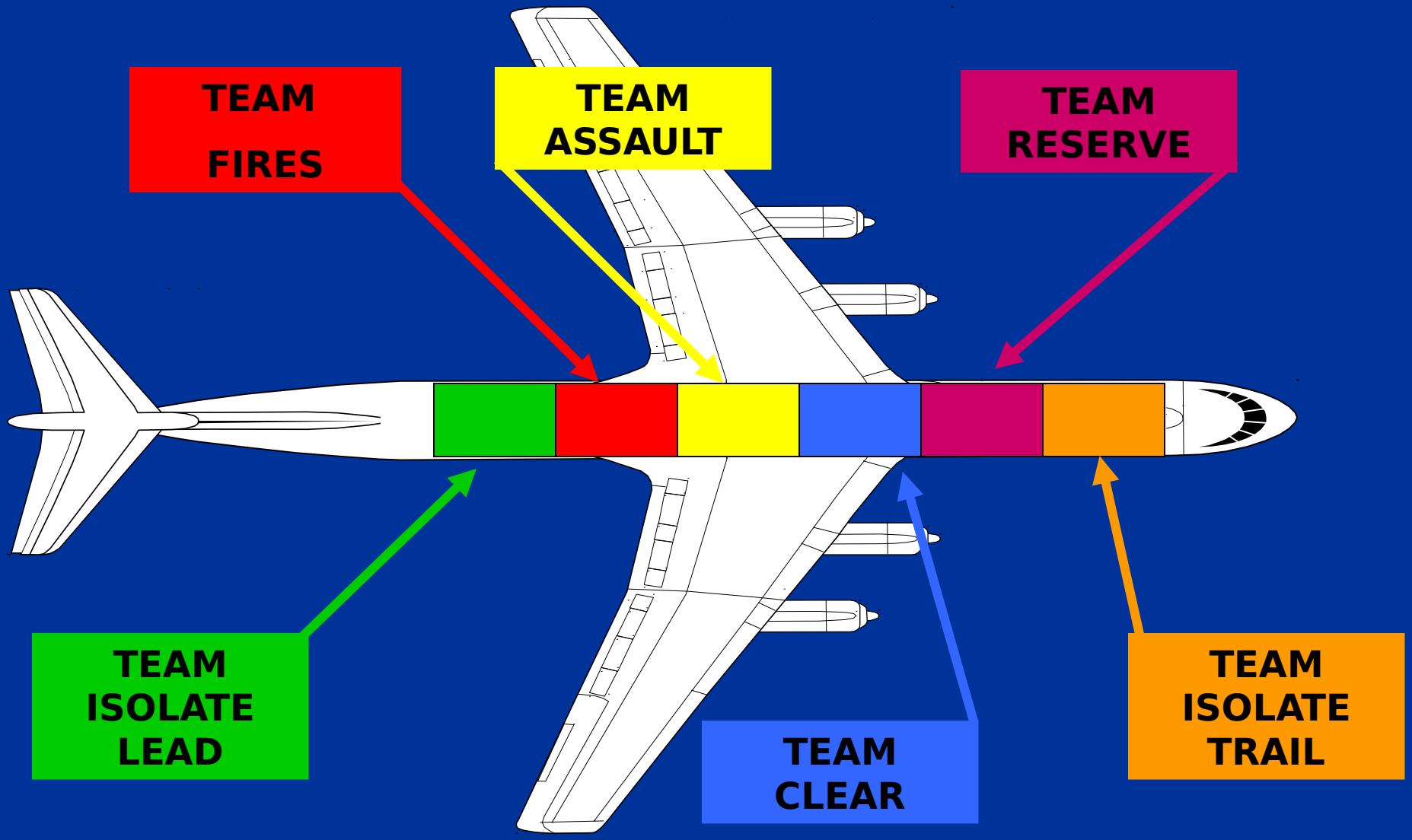
P-:10 Heavy Drop Begins



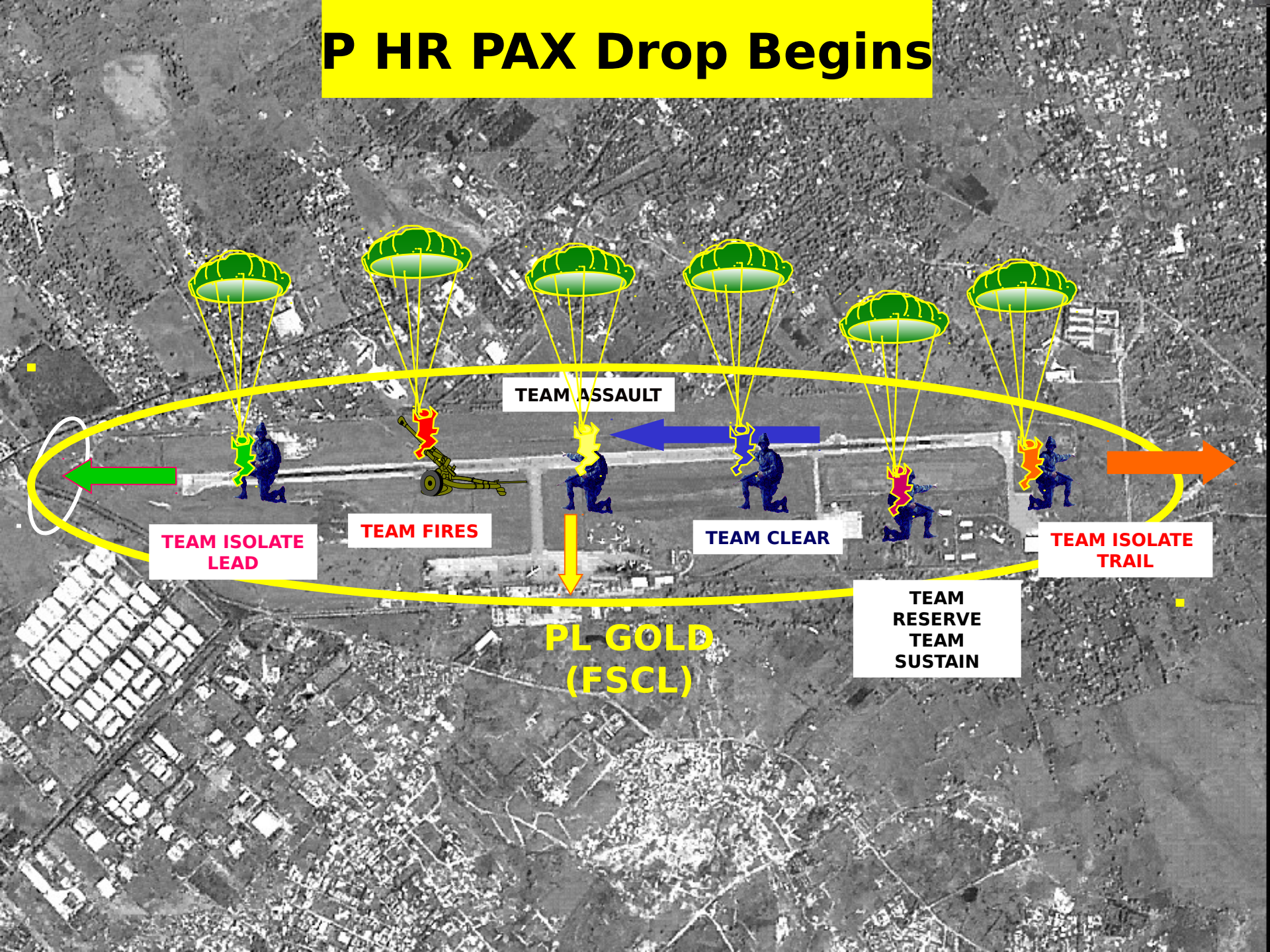
JACC/CP 6 Recommendation Card

DATA	MESSAGE
	MINIMUM FORCE
NORMANDY DZ	
# PAX 1000	**MINIMUM OF 700 PAX**
# PAX AC __ X C17 & ___ X C130	"WE HAVE _____PAX AIRCRAFT OF THE REQUIRED_____."
	"WE DO/DO NOT HAVE THE NECESSARY FORCE TO ACCOMPLISH THE MISSION."
	INTELLIGENCE
LRSD	"LRSD TEAMS ARE/ARE NOT IN NFA'S_____."
OBSTACLES	"_____ OBSTACLES ON DZ."
ADA	"NIGHT CAPABLE ADA HAS/HAS NOT BEEN LOCATED AND DESTROYED." *(SA-18, DSHK,ZPU-4)*
FORCES	"ENEMY FORCES ON DZ NOT LARGER THAN _____."
CONDITIONS FOR LAUNCH	"ENEMY MORTARS HAVE/HAVE NOT BEEN LOCATED AND DESTROYED *(MORTARS ON DZ DESTROYED?)*
	ENEMY CAN REINFORCE W/_____ NLT _____.
	RECOMMEND GO "PHOENIX"
	RECOMMEND NO/GO "YUMA"
	PRE-ASSAULT FIRES
NGF	NGF IS/IS NOT ON STATION
EC130	"EC130 IS/IS NOT ON STATION."
AC130	"AC130 IS/ IS NOT ON STATION"
CAS	"CAS IS/IS NOT ON STATION."
AH64	"ATTK HELOs ARE/ARE NOT ON STATION"
	HPT **SA-14, 82mm, DShK, CLF dismounts**
	WEATHER
PAX A/C - 200' CEILING, 1/2 MILE VISIBILITY	"WINDS ARE AT_____KNOTS."
PAX WIND - 13 KNOT LIMIT	"VISIBILITY IS _____MILES."
	"RECOMMEND EXECUTE/NO DROP."

TASK FORCE CROSS LOAD

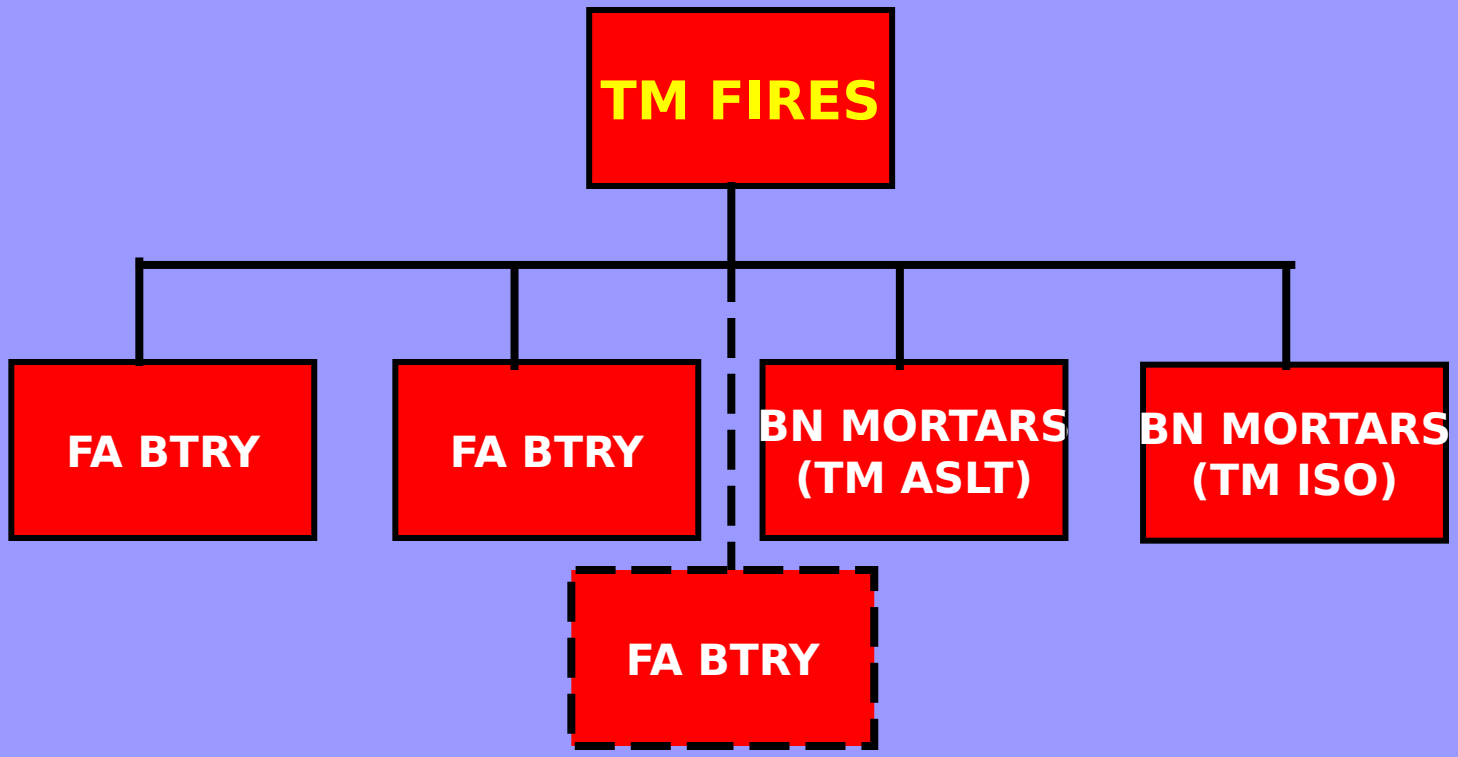


P HR PAX Drop Begins



EXECUTING FIRES WITHIN THE AREA OF OPERATION

TM FIRES



<u>MISSION</u>: PROVIDES INDIRECT FIRE SUPPORT TO THE TF NLT P+:25 IOT FACILITATE AIRFIELD SEIZURE AND FOLLOW-ON AIRLAND OPERATIONS

OTHER ASSETS MAY INCLUDE ADA, MICO, CHEM AND MANUEVER

TEAM FIRES

POSITIVE CONTROL-- MORE RESPONSIVE CLEARANCE OF FIRES

GREATER EFFECTS THROUGH MASSED FIRES:

- **C2 TACTICAL FIRE DIRECTION FOR ENTIRE BDE TF**
- **SURVEY CONTROL**
- **SIMPLPLIFIED COMM NET STRUCTURE**

INDIRECT FIRES INTEGRATED INTO A2C2 MEASURES

COORDINATED TM FIRES DEFENSE (DS,GS, or OPCON assets)

BDE COMMANDER CLEARS ALL FIRES WITHIN THE AHL

TEAM FIRES

AMMUNITION RECOVERY FROM PLATFORMS

POSITIONING:

BEST POSITION IOT SUPPORT CRITICAL TARGETS (MIN/MAX RANGE)

The TEAM FIRES will remain till BDE CDR deems necessary

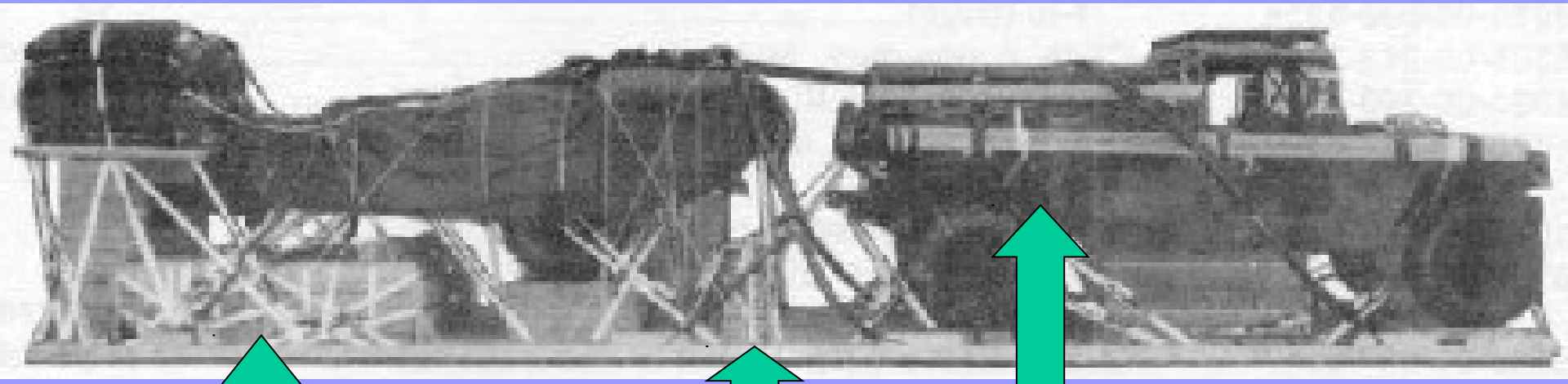
TEAM FIRES
AMMUNTION PACKAGE

- **TAILORED AMMUNITION PACKAGES**

- **PLATFORM LOAD PLANS**
  - **16FT (46 ROUNDS) = 23 CASES (164 X 81MM)**
  - **32 FT (54 X 105MM, 18 X 81MM)**

32 FOOT PLATFORM

- 47 Possible Ammunition Boxes on 32 Platform
- Cannot exceed weight
- Cannot use newly developed dual rail system



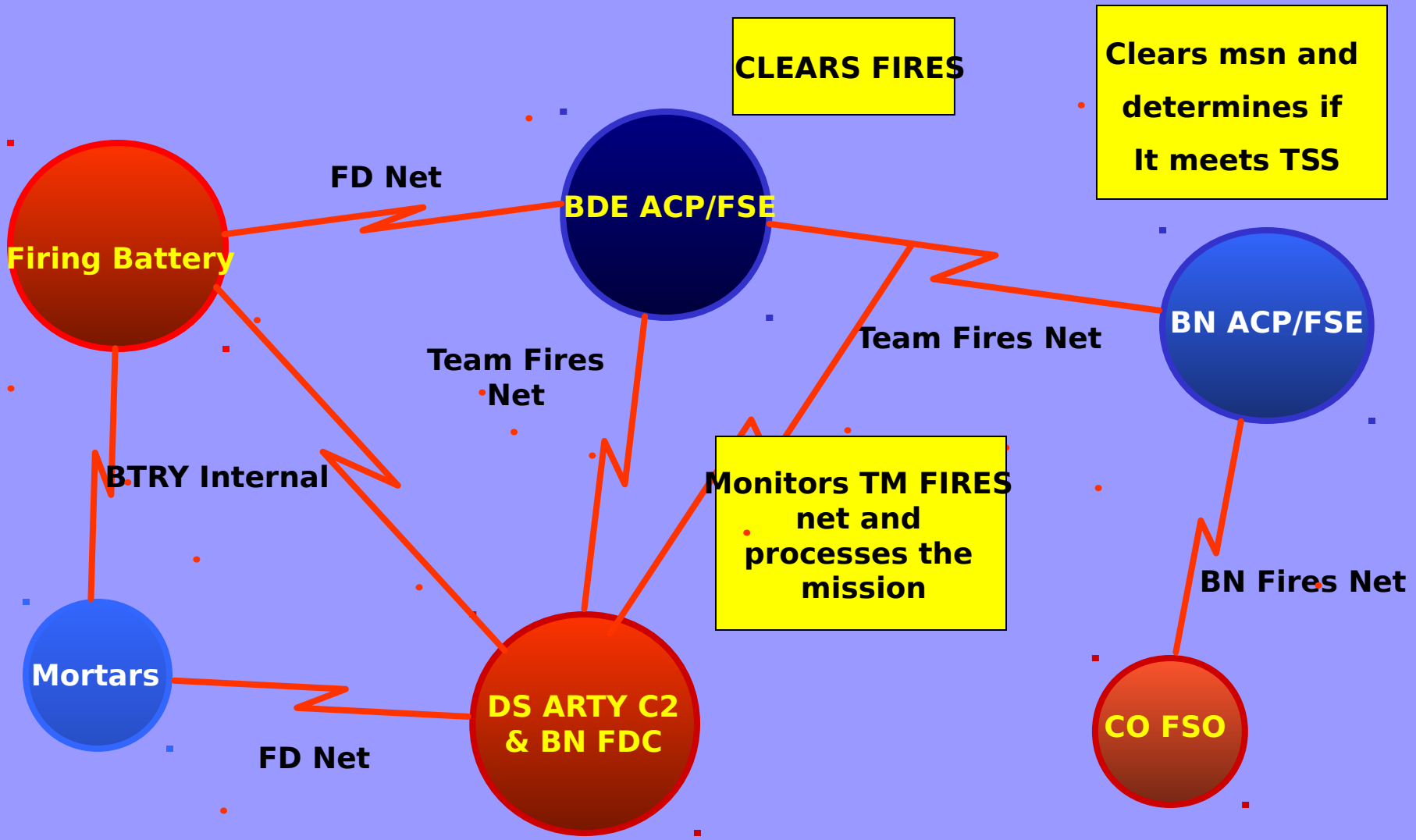
28 Boxes under platform

3 Boxes Tri-pack

Up to 16 Boxes in HMMWV Load

(pending space available)

Fire Mission Processing with TEAM FIRES



TEAM FIRES
CRITICAL TIMES

TIME	ACTION
P+:05	Establish airborne assault nets (ICO
P+:15	Transition to secure FM command ne
P+:25	BPT provide indirect fire support
P+1:00	Account for 90% of personnel

ESSENTIAL FIRE SUPPORT TASKS (Common Examples)

EFST#1: SUPPRESS/NEUTRALIZE ENEMY VIC ASSAULT OBJECTIVE
EFST#2: NEUTRALIZE/DESTROY THREAT FIRE SUPPORT SYSTEMS THROUGH COUNTERFIRE
EFST#3: DISRUPT REINFORCEMENTS
EFST #4: SEAD / PREP FIRES

HORSE BLANKET METHOD FOR SEARCH AND ATTACK

BATTLE TRACKING

AS OF: 06 2345 JUNE 02

1-505		2-505		3-505		1 - 17		ADD TF	
A1	R	B1	R	C1	R	D1	R		
A2	R	B2	R	C2	R	D2	R		
A3	G	B3	G	C3	G	D3	G		
A4	G	B4	G	C4	G	D4	G		

UPDATE EVERY 2 HOURS OR WHEN CHANGED.

FIRES WITHIN THE AREA OF OPERATIO

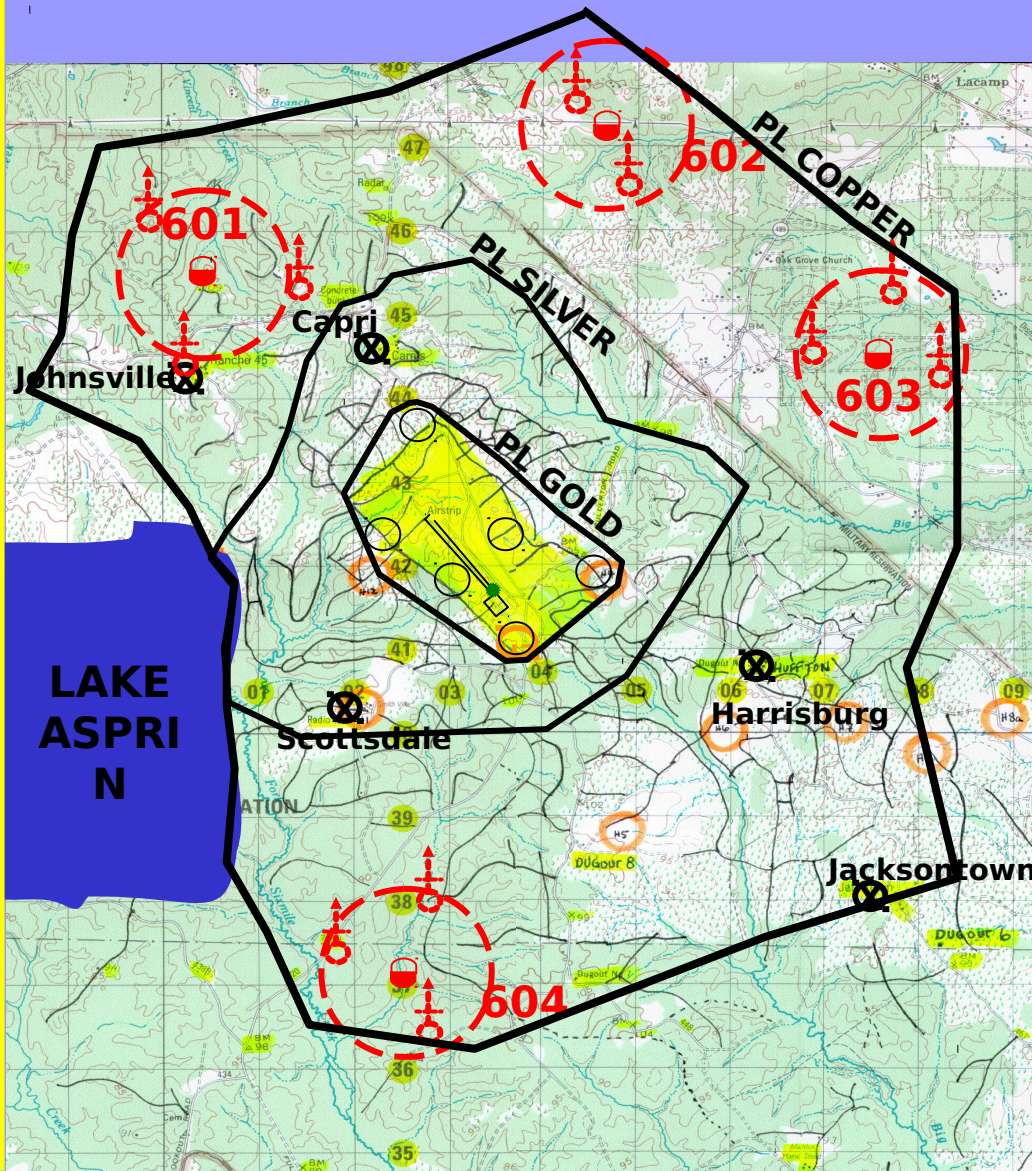
COUNTERFIRE

DETECT

- **If possible, deploy Q-36 w/ Rifle Co. from ISB/FOB deliver via AASLT or 1st echelon A/L**
- **LLVI collect & jam CFF**

DELIVER

- **Observer = MAN TF, MTR, AC-130 (positive control)**
- **Weapon = CAS, AC-**



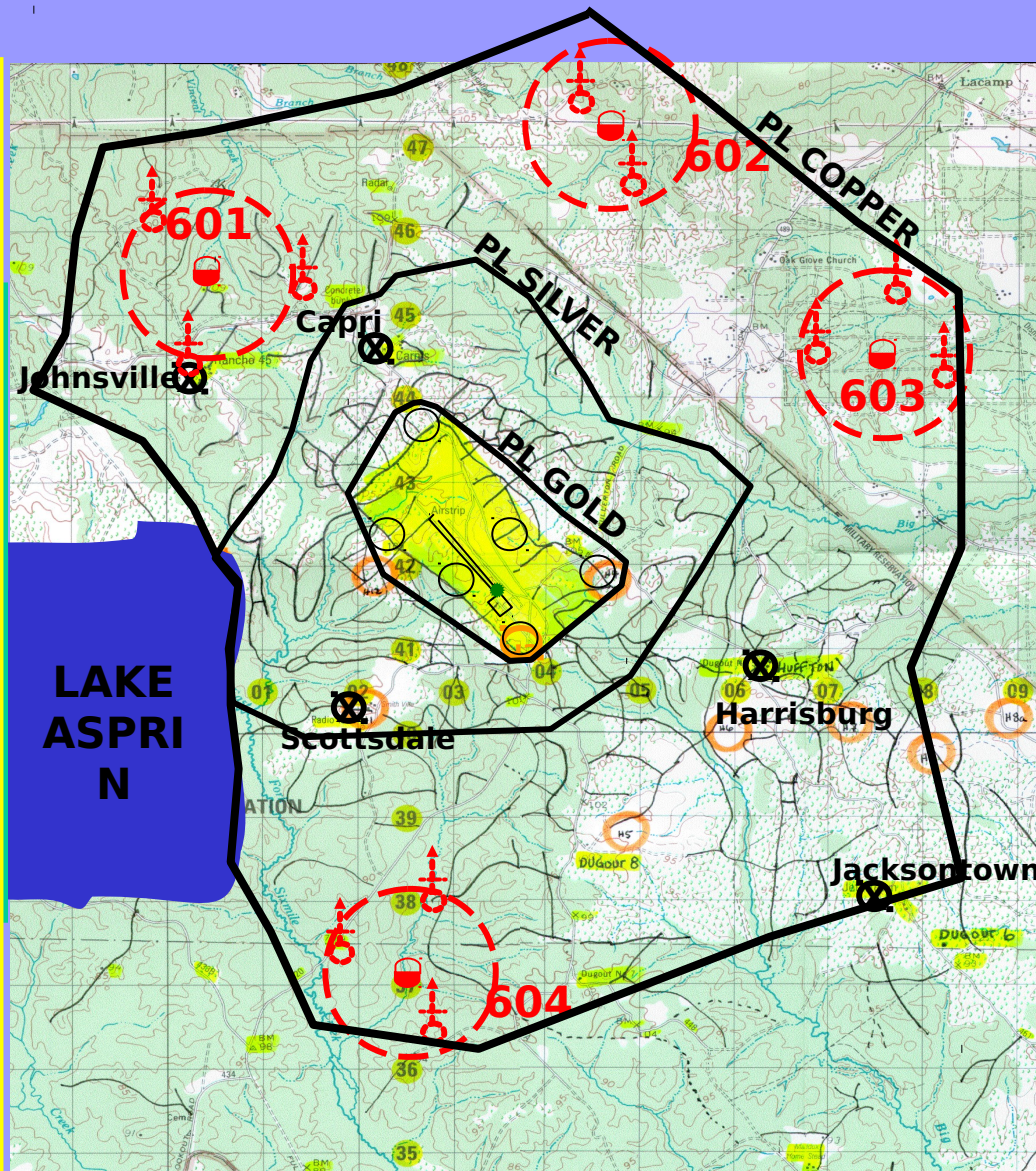
FIRES WITHIN THE AREA OF OPERATIO

Within the Airhead Line

- **60mm & 81mm MTR, direct fire engagements**

Others

If possible, directed by ATK AVN using 105mm, AC-130 or CAS



RAPID DEPLOYMENT FORCES

“WHEELS UP” TO ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD IN 18 HOURS

AIRBORNE

ALL THE WAY!